

City of Greenfield, Massachusetts
Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Thursday 10/22/2020, 5:00-6:30pm

Attending: Nancy Hazard, George Touloumtzis, Jacob Frank, Tara Kurland, Phil Elmer, Marlo Warner, Hannah Rechtschaffen, MJ Adams, Mike Pattavina **Absent:** Carole Collins, Jay Lord **Clerk:** Laurie DiDonato
Guests: Lindsay Rowe

Introductions/Updates- with role of committee member noted

MJ Adams, Designee for the Department of Planning & Development

- MA Downtown initiative survey deadline is tomorrow
- Small Business downtown survey is out
- Next Tues Landlord meeting to talk about eviction moratorium
- 2nd floor shelter renovation moving forward. Will be open by early December

Phil Elmer, City Council representative – Community Preservation Act (CPA) will be on Nov 3 ballot. He is looking for a volunteer to write another My Turn/Letter to editor mentioning that adopting CPA was identified in our 2014 Master Plan.

Nancy Hazard, At Large member – Has been enjoying gathering information from many for the MVP planning committee & great to see COVID relief money being distributed by FCCDC

Mike Pattavina, At Large member – He voted this week! Concerned that CPA might not pass

Hannah Rechtschaffen, At Large member, and SGIC chair - Excited about SGIC's fall agenda – Penny Rickets coming to talk about reinvigorating the Youth Commission, and Carole Collins will talk about her work in working toward a fossil-free-future in Greenfield

Marlo Warner, fills DPW seat - busy preparing for capital budget

- Fiske Ave progress: retaining wall taken down today, will be done mid-next week
- Sewage sludge – Tighe & Bond hired to design a press/dewatering system that will result in useable fertilizer. An anaerobic digester could be added later.

George Touloumtzis, Planning Board representative – Confronting Racism – Great to see film and article about it in newspaper. He checked master plan and equity/inclusion not prominent – we need to add it.

Tara Kurland, at large member – Thrilled with Greenfield schools working out. Her daughter is in kindergarten...lots of outside activities including observation and crafts

Lindsay Rowe, guest – excited to see Fiske Ave moving forward!

Conflict of Interest exam – Laurie reminded the committee that all members need to take a conflict of interest exam every two years and submit a certificate to the Town Clerk. Many members have done this already, but some don't remember if they need to do it this year. Laurie will check with the Town Clerk to see who still needs to do this.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes - Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Marlo. Motion passed. Tara abstained.

Meeting times next two months - Regular meeting times conflict with the holidays. It was agreed that November and December meetings would be on the third Thursday from 5:30-7pm.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) - Phil's My Turn promoting Yes on 3/adoption of the CPA was published and got mixed response on social media. It was agreed another My Turn from the SGIC highlighting that adoption of the CPA is recommended in the Master Plan would be a good idea. Hannah has agreed to write one. Phil also found out that if the ballot question fails it can easily be re-introduced in the future.

CDBG - Lindsay Rowe gave an update on the status of CDBG projects (see report). It was suggested that the Master Plan be consulted as a mechanism of citizen input for future projects.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP)

Input for the next stage of the MVP process is due to FRCOG on October 30th. Nancy and Mike wanted the committee to weigh in on what they plan to submit. They prepared a summary of last month's discussion and a report on climate migration, hoping to include this in the submission. Michael explained about the risks with climate migration from coastal areas, including gentrification, increased need for housing, jobs, transportation, etc. Actions to prepare for this can include protecting agricultural land and open space, strategic planning around housing density, increasing jobs through green new deal strategies. Hannah suggested looking at the Master Plan to see if there are actions recommended that coincide with what has been discussed. There was general consensus to authorize Nancy and Michael to submit what they have prepared without further oversight, as there will be more opportunities for public input before the plan is complete.

Low Impact Development (LID) – George reported that the Planning Board has proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to incorporate LID strategies. These strategies reduce storm water runoff and increase infiltration of storm water into the soil. These steps are recommended in the Master Plan. The ordinance needs to be approved by the council and requires a public hearing. The subdivision regulations only require a public hearing. It is planned for both hearings to happen on the same night.

Next Meeting – November 19, 5:30-7:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjourned at 6:34 pm